REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-48 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3 and 5-48 have been allowed, and claim 4 has been rejected. Applicant has cancelled claim 4. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that this application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, it is believed that all of the claims as presently presented, are patentable, and that this application is now in allowable condition.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>13-4500</u>, Order No. <u>1232-4566</u>.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 27, 2004

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